

DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW BIRDS FROM ALDABRA,
ASSUMPTION, AND GLORIOSA ISLANDS, COLLECTED
BY DR. W. L. ABBOTT.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY,
Curator of the Department of Birds.

IN the last volume of these Proceedings* descriptions were published of seven new species of birds† collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott on the above-mentioned islands, an eighth new form‡ having been later characterized in *The Auk*.§ Other species in Dr. Abbott's collection were identified with forms already described, though some of them were doubtfully determined, no specimens of the birds they were supposed to represent being available for comparison. Duplicates of some of these were sent to Prof. Alfred Newton, who has made a special study of the birds of the Madagascar subregion. Prof. Newton has kindly informed me that they are in reality new forms, and has most generously sent me specimens of the species to which I had referred them in order that I might see wherein they were different. I am thus under the necessity of describing six more new birds which have been brought to light by Dr. Abbott's careful explorations.

A more elaborate paper on the avian fauna of these interesting islands, together with the Seychelles, Amirantes, etc., based primarily on Dr. Abbott's collection, but including also the results of the work of previous collectors, is nearly completed and will in due time be published.

1. ZOSTEROPS ALDABRENSIS, new species.

Specific characters.—Similar to *Z. palpebrosa* (Temminck), but supraloral region (sides of forehead) distinctly orange-yellowish, under parts with yellow of chest extending farther backward and tinging the median line of the belly; chest and sides less tinged with gray (some specimens having instead a faint brownish wash), and under tail-coverts

* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVI, pp. 597-600, No. 953, published August 16, 1893.

† *Irocincla madagascariensis rostrata*, *Buchanga alāabrana*, *Fondia aldabrana*, *Rougetius aldabranus*, *Ibis abbotti*, *Sula abbotti*, and *Turtur saturatus*.

‡ *Rougetius abbotti*.

§ *The Auk*, January, 1894, p. 74.

very different in color from chest (varying from maize- to chrome yellow, the throat being canary-yellow).

Habitat.—Aldabra Island. (Type, No. 128702, U.S.N.M., ♂ ad., Aldabra Island, October 3, 1892; Dr. W. L. Abbott.)

Measurements of type.—Length (before skinning), 4.25; wing, 2.12; tail, 1.62; exposed culmen, 0.35; tarsus, 0.70; middle toe, 0.37. "Upper mandible, black; lower, leaden; feet, leaden; irides, light brown." (ABBOTT, MSS.)

2. ZOSTEROPS MADAGASCARIENSIS GLORIOSÆ, new subspecies

Characters of subspecies.—Very similar to true *Z. madagascariensis* (Gmelin), but larger (?), upper parts less vivid olive-green, and under tail-coverts brighter yellow.

Habitat.—Gloriosa Island. (Type, No. 128706, U.S.N.M., ♀ ad., Gloriosa Island, January 25, 1893; Dr. W. L. Abbott.)

Measurements of type.—Length (before skinning), 4.50; wing, 2.17; tail, 1.42; exposed culmen, 0.40; tarsus, 0.65; middle toe, 0.38. "Bill, black; base of lower mandible, leaden; irides, pale brown; feet, leaden." (ABBOTT, MSS.)

Having only one specimen of true *Z. madagascariensis* for comparison, I am not quite satisfied of the propriety of separating the Gloriosa bird, which I do more in deference to Prof. Newton's views than to my own convictions.

3. CINNYRIS ALDABRENSIS, new species.

Specific characters.—Similar to *C. souimanga* (Gmelin), but pectoral band much broader and bright maroon-bay instead of chestnut; sooty breast-patch much more extensive, reaching, medially, to middle of belly; sides and flanks light yellowish gray, and lower belly very pale sulphur-yellow (whole belly canary-yellow in *C. souimanga*). Female much grayer above and darker below, anteriorly, than that of *C. souimanga*.

Habitat.—Aldabra Island. (Type, No. 128673, U.S.N.M., ♂ ad., Aldabra Island, October 1, 1892; Dr. W. L. Abbott.)

Measurements of type.—Length (before skinning), 4.36; wing, 2.10; tail, 1.50; exposed culmen, 0.70; tarsus, 0.65; middle toe, 0.40. "Bill and feet black." (ABBOTT, MSS.)

4. CINNYRIS ABBOTTI, new species.

Specific characters.—Similar to *C. aldabrensis*, but with under parts posterior to maroon-bay pectoral band almost entirely sooty black, with flanks more or less extensively light yellowish gray; upper tail-coverts glossy violet-black, tipped with metallic greenish blue. Female similar to that of *C. aldabrensis*.

Habitat.—Assumption Island. (Type, No. 128680, U.S.N.M., ♂ ad., Assumption Island, September 18, 1892; Dr. W. L. Abbott.)

Measurements of type.—Length (skin), 3.90; wing, 2.22; tail, 1.62; exposed culmen, 0.70; tarsus, 0.67; middle toe, 0.40.

5. CENTROPUS INSULARIS, new species.

Specific characters.—Quite identical in nuptial plumage with *C. toulou* (Müller); in other plumages, however, very much paler, the posterior under parts barred with pale brownish buff and dusky, in nearly equal quantity (uniform greenish dusky in corresponding plumage of *C. toulou*.)

Habitat.—Aldabra and Assumption islands. (Type, No. 128715, U. S. N. M., ♀ ad., Aldabra, October, 1892. “Upper mandible, horny brown; lower pale horny; irides, red; feet, bluish black.” (ABBOTT, MSS.)

Measurements vary so, both in this form and in *C. toulou*, that I have been unable to derive any satisfactory character from them. The present bird appears, however, to have almost invariably smaller feet than *C. toulou*, as the following measurements show:

Measurements of Centropus toulou.

Museum and number.	Sex and age.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Depth of bill.	Tarsus.	Outer toe.
A. N.	♂ ad.	Madagascar	1873	6.55	9.60	1.32	.63	1.65	1.20
U. S., 118599.	♀ ad.	do	.....	5.85	9.50	1.28	.65	1.65	1.15
A. N.	♀ ad.	do	.....	6.45	8.70	1.30	.60	1.67	1.17
A. N. ....	.....	do	1879	5.85	9.20	1.17	.52	1.50	.98

Measurements of Centropus insularis.

U. S., 128717.	♂ ad.	Aldabra	Nov. 18	5.95	9.35	1.10	.50	1.32	1.
U. S., 128714.	♀ ad.	do	Sept. 25	6.70	10.25	1.30	.60	1.50	1.13
U. S., 128716.	♂ ad.	do	Oct. 4	6.	9.75	1.12	.55	1.43	1.05
U. S., 128715.	♀ ad.	do	Oct. 3	6.60	10.80	1.20	.60	1.50	1.13
U. S., 128712.	♂ ad.	Assumption	Sept. 18	5.85	8.70	1.10	.55	1.45	.93

6. CAPRIMULGUS ALDABRENSIS, new species.

Specific characters.—Similar to *C. madagascariensis*, Grandidier, but averaging larger; scapulars marked with grayish white instead of buff; foreneck without collar of buffy spots, and white of tail more extensive (that on lateral feathers extending 1.70 inches from tip in adult male).

Habitat.—Aldabra Island. (Type No. 128668, U. S. N. M., ♂ ad., Aldabra Island, September 29, 1892, Dr. W. L. Abbott.)

Measurements of type.—Length (before skinning), 9.25; wing, 6.25; tail, 4.35; middle toe, 0.65.